REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-26, 28-48, 50-71, 73-83, and 85-94 are currently pending and claims 2, 15, 27, 49, 72, and 84 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3 14, 16, 26, 28, 48, 50, 51, 59, 71, 73, 83 and 85 are amended. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Per Examiner's request, a second set of copies for the above-mentioned IDSs were sent to the Examiner with the Amendment After Final Action, dated March 24, 2004.

In the Final Office action and the subsequent Advisory Action, the Examiner has raised a series of questions that are answered below, in response to rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs that raise the same questions.

Claims 1-13, 26-47, 71-82 and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 15, 27, 49, 72, and 84 and amended claims 1, 14, 26, 48, 71 and 83 to address Examiner's questions and place the application in condition for examination and allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the above rejections be withdrawn.

The term "a signal having a plurality of signal components, each of the plurality of signal components having a different format" in claims 1, 14, 71 and 83 is replaced by the term "a

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plurality of (analog) signals, each of the plurality of (analog) signals having a different format" for clarification purposes. Similarly, the terms "first information signal having a first format" and "a second information signal having a second format different from the first format, the second format being a modulated format" in claims 26 and 48 are replaced by the respective terms "voiceband signal" and "a modulated modem data," for clarification purposes. The formats for the received signals may be, for example, voice, voiceband, fax, ringback, modem, etc. These formats for the received signals are disclosed throughout the specification. For example, on page 8, lines 8 to 29, a variety of different devices with respective signal formats are described. Additional examples are FIGs. 5-6, 20-21, and 24-25 and their respective descriptions starting on page 13 (line 26), page 74 (line 27), and page 85 (line 1), respectively. The signal processing system and method of the present invention are capable of processing these signals of different formats based on their respective formats and outputting the respective processed signals onto a packet based network. The present invention processes these signals based on their format and outputs the respective processed signal onto the network, depending on the format of the analog signal received by the system. Claims 26 and 48 specifically recite voiceband signals and modulated modem date outputted into a packet based network.

Claims 2, 15, 27, 49, 72, and 84, including the limitation of "the first format comprises pulse code modulation," have been cancelled. Applicants believe that the above explanations

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address all of the issues that the Examiner has raised under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejections. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the above-mention rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 15, 27, 49, 72, and 84 and amended claims 1, 14, 26, 48, 71 and 83 to address Examiner's questions and place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

As explained above, the present invention is capable of receiving and processing a plurality of each having a different format and outputting a respective processed signal onto a packet based network. The claimed "channel interface" (for example element 19 in FIG. 2, acting similar to a switch or multiplexor) is capable of <u>selectively</u> outputting (not all at the same time) onto a packet based network the processed information, depending on which signal (with a given format) is being processed by the system at that time. Thus, there is no "combining" of signals of different formats. Rather, a signal with a given format is received at the input port and processed based on the given format (i.e., either demodulated or encoded). Again, as mentioned above, signal formats may be, for example, voice, voiceband, fax, modem, etc.

With respect to the "demodulated information" question, claims 1, 14, 26, 48, 71 and 83 are amended to recite demodulated modem data instead of "demodulated information." As described throughout the specification (FIGs. 20-21, and 24-25 and their respective descriptions) Modem data are demodulated (for example, page 76, lines 20-21, and page 85, line 23-24). Thus, if the received signal is a or Modem data, it will be demodulated by the data pump.

With respect to the "Driver" questions, it is respectfully submitted that the term "driver" was replaced by "channel interface" in the previous Amendment, dated December 24, 2003. The channel interface includes different inputs for different analog signals of different formats (e.g., FIG. 2). Applicants believe that the above explanations address all of the issues that the Examiner has raised under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejections. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the above-mention rejection be withdrawn.

In the Advisory action, the Examiner states that ATM systems, PCM systems, DSL systems, and cable modems are capable of "combining voice, fax and/or data onto a packet network." This may be true, however, none of the above-mentioned systems are capable of demodulating a modulated modem data, encoding a voiceband signal and outputting the demodulated modem data and encoded voiceband signal into a packet based network, respectively.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition
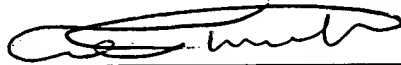
for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance
are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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